

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 051328Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2346

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0908

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN POLITICAL SCENE

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON AMIR AUGUST 5, HE TOLD ME "JUST BETWEEN US" THAT IN TWO WEEKS THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT "POLITICAL DECISIONS". I ASKED IF HE WAS REFERRING TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE REPLIED "I CAN'T SAY" AND "PLEASE DON'T TELL THE FOREIGN MINISTER I TOLD YOU". (IN LATER MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WE DISCUSSED ASSEMBLY IN LIGHT VEIN BUT, DESPITE MY PROBING, HE GAVE NO HINT OF ANY GOB ACTION AND INDICATED ASSEMBLY WILL OPEN AS SCHEDULED THIRD WEEK IN OCTOBER.)

2. TO AMIR I NOTED GENERAL SATISFACTION AMONG FRIENDS OF BAHRAIN WITH THE AMIR'S DETERMINATION TO PRESEVERE IN THE EXPERIMENT WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. HE REPLIED "YES, WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT THERE MUST BE COOPERATION FROM THE OTHER SIDE".

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3. IN A LONG TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER JULY 30, HE HAD INDICATED FIRMLY BAHRAIN'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE PARLIAMENTARY EXPERIMENT WHILE EXPRESSING DISCOURAGEMENT AT THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE DEPUTIES TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT "FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY".

4. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE ALL THAT AMIR IS HINTING AT IS A LONG-ANTICIPATED CABINET RESHUFFLE, PROMPTED LARGELY BY NEED FOR REORGANIZATION OF SOME MINISTRIES AND THE FACT THAT AILING FINANCE MINISTER AL-ALAWI IS REPORTED TO BE EAGER TO SHUFFLE OFF THE SCENE TO TAKE NOW VACANT AMBASSADORIAL POST TO LONDON. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, HOWEVER, THAT AMIR IS CONTEMPLATING DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT AND CALLING NEW ELECTIONS. THIS IS MINIMUM HE HINTED HE MIGHT DO DURING JUNE "CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS" WHICH ENDED WITH AMIR'S ADJOURNING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR SUMMER AFTER GOVERNMENT HAD BOYCOTTED MEETINGS. WE SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THE AMIR IS NOT ABOVE USING US TO HELP SPREAD RUMOR DESIGNED SIMPLY TO ENCOURAGE MORE COOPERATIVE ASSEMBLY BEHAVIOR. END COMMENT.  
TWINAM

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